(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the climate change is increasing the number of hungry people by reducing the area of land available for farming in the country;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether FAO has proposed us a four-pronged approach to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger by 2015; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by Government to implement this strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In its report, "State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2004" FAO has noted that the percentage of under-nourished in India, after declining from 25% to 21% between 1990-92, remained unchanged till 2002. FAO however, maintains that, at present, they are not in a position to indicate the causes for this phenomenon.

(c) and (d) There is no indication of reduction in area available for farming in the country.

(e) and (f) The strategy to usher in food security is well-known. The country with adequate food production, its comprehensive Public Distribution System, various initiatives for generating income for the poor and overall economic growth is adequately prepared to usher in food security for much larger members at an early date.

NAIS in Punjab

2052. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agricultural Assistance Scheme is working satisfactorily in Punjab;

(b) the number of farmers, crops and agricultural land covered under the scheme in the State;

(c) the criteria followed to decide the rate of premium under the scheme, crop-wise; and

(d) the details of financial liabilities shared by the Centre and States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is not under implementation in the State of Punjab as the State Government has not agreed to participate in NAIS.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are two categories of chargeable premium rates under NAIS. Flat rates of premium charged for insuring food and oilseed crops. They are fixed keeping in view the risk involved and the paying capacity of farmers. Other category is the actuarial rates of premium charged for insuring annual commercial and horticultural crops. These rates are calculated on the basis of variability in the yield.

(d) The financial liabilities such as:—

(i) Claims over and above the premium collected in case of food and oilseeds crops.

(ii) Claims above 150% of premium collected for annual commercial and horticultural crops.

(iii) Premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers.

(iv) Administrative and Operating expenses and bank service charges are shared equally between the Centre and the State Governments under NAIS.

National Horticulture Mission

2053. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Karnataka earns nearly Rs. 100 crores in Floriculture;

(b) whether there is any proposal with the Centre to set up 'National Horticulture Mission' to create export potentiality in the Horticulture;

(c) whether Government have a plan to educate farmers to approach markets and evaluate clients; and